



State Senator
PATRICIA L. BIRKHOLZ
R-24th Senate District



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Committees: Natural Resources and Environmental Affairs (Chair); Local, Urban and State Affairs
(Vice Chair); Gaming and Casino Oversight; Technology and Energy

Biography: Republican, of Saugatuck Township; born January 28, 1944, at Allegan; B.S., Western Michigan University; working on master's degree in Public Administration at Western Michigan University; children, Brent, Eric, Jason; member, First Congregational Church, Saugatuck; Allegan County Treasurer, 1992-1996; former district staff assistant to U.S. Congressman Fred Upton, 1990-1992; Saugatuck Township Treasurer, 1982-1992; Saugatuck Township Trustee, 1980-1982; Saugatuck Township Park and Recreation Commission, 1972-1980; teacher, Saugatuck-Douglas Public Schools; Child Development Services, Ottawa County Head Start; gubernatorial appointee: Michigan State Parks Advisory Board, chair 1996, member 1989-1997; The Foundation for Michigan State Parks; president, Allegan Rotary, 1996; BILLD Fellow, Bowhay Legislative Leadership Development Institute, 1997; named Rookie of the Year, Michigan Manufacturers Association, 1997; Distinguished Achievement Award, Michigan Municipal League, 1998; Distinguished Service Award from the Association of Independent Colleges and Universities of Michigan, 1999; *Business Direct Weekly's* Most Influential Women Award, 1999; named a "Guardian of Small Business" by the National Federation of Independent Business, 2000; Michigan Society of Planning Outstanding Planning and Land Use Leadership Award, 2001; Michigan Township Association "Legislator of the Year," 2001; Michigan League of Conservation Voters Award for Promoting New Approaches to Land Use, 2002; named one of the "50 Most Influential Women in Western Michigan in 2002" by the Grand Rapids Business Journal; House Republican Policy Committee vice chair, 1997; Assistant Republican Floor Leader, 1997; elected to the House of Representatives, 1996, 1998, and 2000; Speaker Pro Tempore, 1999-2002; elected to the State Senate, 2002; President Pro Tempore.

